GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:96
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2005
IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME
Chakrabortty Shri Swadesh;Satheedevi Smt. P.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the guidelines issued under National Food for Work Programme are putting hindrance to implement the Programme itself;

(b) if so, whether the Government is also aware that the value of foodgrains component for the period October, 2004 to April, 2005 is far less than the specified norms;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether it is a fact that 75% of wages paid to the workers in foodgrains under the expanded Food for Work Programme in 150 backward districts are calculated at APL prices;

(e) if so, the reasons and the basis of calculating the foodgrains at APL rates Rs. 10 a kilo which is inflating the entire cost of the Programme and depriving a large section of the people from its benefits;

(f) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government in this direction; and

(g) the rate on which the foodgrains are procured from FCI by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (g) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement as referred to in Reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.96 for answer on 29.7.2005

(a) to (c) : The Guidelines of NFFWP enable smooth and effective implementation and provide necessary flexibility to address the local conditions, needs and problems. According to the Guidelines, the value of foodgrains distributed to the workers, is to be calculated at BPL rate.

(d) to (f) Under the programme, notified minimum wages are paid. Wages are paid through a mix of cash and foodgrains. 5 kg of foodgrains and at least 25% of wages in cash must be ensured in normal case. The wages paid to the workers in the form of foodgrains are calculated at BPL rate and not at APL rate. As such, there is no question of inflating the cost of the programme nor does it affect the interest of the poor rural workers.

(g) According to the NFFWP Guidelines, FCI will be paid at BPL rate for the foodgrains lifted.